

For Men Who Enjoy Being Women

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Illusions

REFERENCE USE ONLY

MEN...

into

WOMEN

a c t i v i s m

The Right to Wear a Dress

**A SEX CHANGE
ODYSSEY**

**THE GENDER
OUTLAW**

**Speaking
Like a Woman**

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Volume 4 Issue 3 September/October 1994 \$8.00

Dear Reader.....

Hard to believe Halloween "The TV National Holiday", is just around the corner!

We are looking forward to getting acquainted with the "NEW" members and renewing our friendships with the "Oldies".

If you are a **NEW Reader**.....We welcome you and hope your feelings towards your feminine self are helped along with the **TIPS, ARTICLES** and **STORIES!** You are not alone...just lonely! By purchasing this magazine you have already taken the first step out of the closet. Take the next step by joining "**ILLUSIONS**" and quit being lonely!

To our current readers, we hope your opinion of your magazine continues to be positive. We will continue to challenge your boundaries by supplying you with thought provoking articles, Editorials, enhance your knowledge with hints and tips and hopefully help to help you become "**All You Can Be!**"

When we all become more positive in what we are and stand for, we all can portray the **Self-Assurance** needed to broaden horizons of those we come in contact with. The whole trans-gendered community is coming of age and with age hopefully comes some knowledge. **Knowledge** brings with it a certain amount of **Responsibility** to ourselves and those around us. The focus of groups internationally is away from the Me, Me, Me attitude (the social groups) to the **Outreach** and **Educational** attitude (the service group). We hope in the year to come we can continue to **Entertain** and at the same time be more committed to the **Outreach** and **Educational Aspects**. We can do alot through our magazine be we also need our readership to actively participate in this endeavour.

So when you're out on the town "Halloweening" this year... (or all year long)...Be **PROUD** of yourself and let people know you. If you don't think you're weird and you don't act weird...why should people perceive you as weird?

Remember to **Smile**....even if you know you've been read! **Smile**, be happy because in most cases its contagious and they'll always wonder what the joke is or what you know that they don't.

SMILE and REACH OUT!

In Pumpkins and Panty Hose

Love..... Barbie & Christine

Illusion Calendar

CALGARY

September 10	Welcome Back,Vegas Nite
September 29	Passport to Pleasure
October 15	Dressing for Pleasure II
October 27	Fashion Show
October 29	Halloween Outing (not at club)
November 12	TV Bingo II
November 24	Chance to Breathe Social
December 17	PotLuck Xmas Dinner

RED DEER

September 30 - October 2
Alberta Summit '94
Call G.A.L.A.C.A. 340-2196

Illusions Editors: Barbie, Christine and Lisa



EDMONTON

September 8	Regular Socail
October 13	Regular Social
November 10	Regular Social
December 8	PotLuck???

"Christine has new accomodations for the EDMONTON ILLUSIONS SOCIALS!
Be sure to contact her or Barbie at 236-7072 in Calgary or 486-9661 in Edmonton for more information!!"

**DON'T
MISS OUT!**

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NEW MOVIE"
coming soon

BIG NAMES GET A NEW LOOK!

**"ILLUSIONS"
CENTERFOLD**

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"GIRLS OF SUMMER II"

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Based on the huge success of "Girls of Summer I", the girls of Illusions decided to recreate the magic of last years event by doing the sequel "Girls of Summer II". With all the positive feedback that we have received, I think that we equalled or bettered all of our expectations.

It was a perfect evening to hold a party to say goodbye to summer. The Boxxe Restaurant & Bar was the location for the event providing an ideal venue for our party as well as

serving up an excellent dinner enjoyed by all. Many thanks go out to Kerry and the staff of the Boxxe for the effort they provided in making the "Girls of Summer II" such a success.

Our MC for the evening, Natalie, did a terrific job introducing the performers as well as keeping the audience entertained in between numbers. Our whole hearted thanks go out to her for a job well done!

The entertainment was provided by a variety of the sisters led by the

'Illusionettes': Empress IV Lisa, Empress III Wendy, Princess Diane, Colleen and Melanie, all who appeared in numerous numbers throughout the show.

Lisa appeared in no less than four numbers, highlighted by a solo number with an imaginative 'Safeway Checkout Girl' theme.

It was nice to welcome Wendy back into the fold after a brief break from the cross-dressing scene. She participated in two duet numbers, one with Lisa and one with Colleen.

Princess Di did a country number dressed somewhere between a cowgirl and a beach bunny. I guess that kind of makes her a 'cowbunny'?

Melanie ended the show with a bluesy type number with background support from the Illusionette girls.

Other performers included Michelle, who having joined the club only a short while back, now appears to be quite comfortable with the social atmosphere of Illusions. Our gal 'Ol Vicked Wanda' was in fine form as

was our 'Miss Special K'. Amanda and Gina also performed very spirited numbers and overall, all the performances were very well done and were muchly appreciated by all those in attendance.

Over 40 people were in attendance and in addition to having a fun evening we managed to raise some funds that could be used for additions to our inhouse library, or a lighting system and a small amount for the social committee to help finance upcoming club social events. Based on the enthusiastic responses that we have received and if the Boxxe will have us again, the "Girls of Summer III" will again be ready to fly in '95.

In Bathing Suits and Bikinis;
the "Illusionettes"

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Transvestites and Crossdressers

By Cindy Dixon

This is the first in a series of short essays written on topics concerning the transgendered community. For the essays to have meaning, some definitions need to be set so that the essays will have been written and read within the framework of the same terms of reference.

It should be stated that while some transgendered individuals are gay or bisexual, studies have shown that the incidence of homosexuality is lower in the transgendered community than in society as a whole. That is, as a percentage, there are fewer homosexuals in the transgendered community than in society as a whole. While the author does not feel completely comfortable with the following definitions, in particular the ones for Transvestite and Crossdresser, they are definitions that are generally accepted within the transgendered community and they will serve as the basis for the essays.

Definition of:

Crossdressers: Crossdressers (cd) are people that need to dress in the clothes of the opposite gender to express that other gender that makes up (a large) part of their being.

Transvestites: Transvestites (tv) are people that get a sexual thrill from wearing the clothes of the opposite gender as well as needing the clothing to help express the (large) portion of their make up that is of the opposite gender.

Drag Queen: Drag Queens are gay men that dress as women with one of two goals. The first is to entertain, although straight men can be female impersonators as well. The second is to attract other gay or straight men for sex.

Transgenderist: Transgenderists (tg) are people that have an unusually large component of the opposite gender's mental make up in their being. While

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As a representative of Illusions Edmonton I attended the A.I.D.S. network offices to be on a panel made up of the various alternate lifestyles. Members from Northern Chaps (leather community), the gay and lesbian community, a transvestite (that would be me), and a drag queen made up the panel.

The prime purpose of this panel is to pass on valuable knowledge to a group of councillors who are in training and needing to understand our different ways of life. They could be counselling people who will need help in dealing with their feelings on alternate lifestyles. These counsellors are from a cross section of cultural and employment backgrounds. Each panel member gave a short talk about their feelings, experiences, and how they handle them. After the panel discussion the counsellors were divided in to groups with a panel member in each group. We discussed our feelings in more detail and answered specific questions from the new councillors. Some of the questions were on makeup application, to where do you go shopping for clothes, and what are some of the difficulties if any you have experienced while shopping.

At the conclusion of the meeting everyone was invited to a scrumptious lunch courtesy of the A.I.D.S. network Edmonton.

The panel has been invited to the next training class of counsellors as all felt the information given was pertinent to today's various lifestyles. A member of the Edmonton Police service community relations branch is expected to attend, as well as, a member of the R.C.M.P. representing the surrounding communities.

On behalf of Illusions Edmonton I would like to thank Heather Huet for inviting me. Heather is the coordinator of volunteers for A.I.D.S. network Edmonton

The Edmonton Sunday Sun, August 14, 1994.

Today

When boys will be girls

Men who wear women's clothes - and the men who love them.

On the next *Oprah*? No, right here in Edmonton, at the Rebar night club on Whyte Ave., during the Fringe.

I'm talking panty hose. Mascara. Big, teased hair. Charles Jourdan heels ... it's the feminine mystique unleashed, with traces of a five o'clock shadow.

The concept is - well, a little queer, don't you think? Drag queens make me cringe.

I'm not homophobic. But when I analyse my own low-tolerance level, what really bothers me about men in skirts is that they always have slimmer hips and a better wardrobe than I do.

That ticks me off.

But, OK. I can be open-minded. Thursday night, I dragged (oops, bad choice of word) a friend with me to see the preview of the Fringe's glitzy *Guys In Disguise II - The Sequin*.

I was a "virgin" in the audience, I was informed, because I'd never before seen female impersonators do their schtick.

I have, however, watched some brawny brutes turn positively giddy at Halloween because they get to go out in public wearing lipstick and a wig. I don't quite understand the kick, but these men don't bother me.

That's because they're too busy bothering my date.

In spite of my naivety and bias, I give these gals ... er, Guys In Disguise ... kudos for their racy and ribald entertainment value. The show's a hoot (or should that be hooter?).

And the costumes are to die for - although someone really should tell Marilyn Monroe, even though she is a dead person, that it's tacky to let your black bra strap show, especially when wearing sequins. And Liza Minelli should know better than to put on an orange chiffon scarf with a beaded blouse. That's a tad overdone, even for Liza.

The Guys do an amazing job of dress-up and make-up - much better than me on most mornings. But there are some subtleties of feminine style, some of those instinctive, in-born things that real women know and do, which they really should be told.



Anne
ALEXANDER
TODAY EDITOR

So here, from the very bottom of my closet, are tips for how to dress like a woman when you walk like a man (although I wouldn't try these if you're heading to the gym or a biker bar):

- Make sure your bra stuffing is evenly distributed and secure. Fall-out can be hazardous.



Guys In Disguise

- More on bra stuffing: removable shoulder pads work well, especially with the new, uplift Wonderbras or Gossards hot on the market right now. Just be careful where you put the velcro - it can take the hair right off your chest. In a pinch, Kleenex can be used for padding, but don't start crying and absently reach for a breast to wipe your

eyes. That lacks class.

- Shave your legs. While you're at it, do your armpits. And to be truly attractive, get rid of the moustache (good advice for women, too).
- Putting on panty hose is an art. Don't just slip them on your feet and yank unless you want a run and a voice change. Instead, slip them over your feet and gently, slowly roll each stocking up the leg.
- Perfume will mask obnoxious odors - including garlic breath, beer breath and that nasty testosterone. Layer it on by applying it to all your pulse points, for the true scent of a woman.
- Flat shoes make the calves look thick and unattractive. High heels slenderize the leg. The higher they are, though, the harder to walk in. Get used to it.

And when you're cursing like man because you're dressed head to toes like a woman remember that some guy invented these female fashion tortures.

PRINCES OF PANTYHOSE

Hope you don't mind a little edgy humor, since we're going to sprinkle some of Peterson's best jokes through the column.

Imagine them being told by a man who could pass as Marilyn Monroe's double, to an audience that's about 50/50 straight and gay.

(Nice thing about the Fringe. It's an excuse to go to places you'd blush even thinking about!)

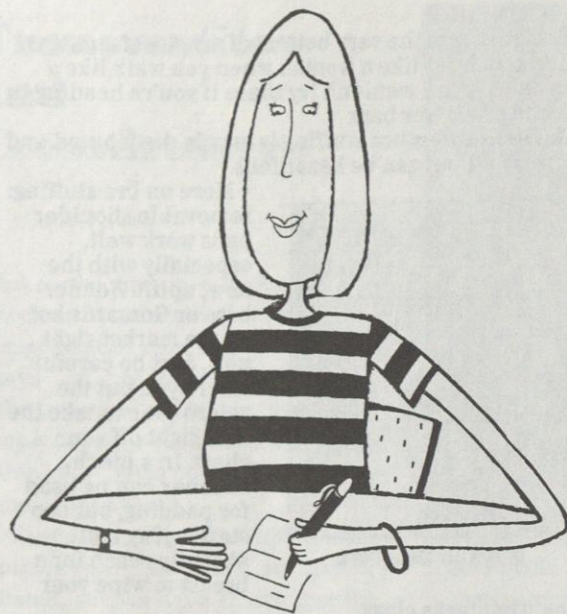
"Clap if you hate wearing pantyhose," commanded Peterson.

"That's good ... now, let's hear from the women."



Chris Peterson
Meow!

"If ants are such busy workers, how come they find time to go to all those picnics?"



[viewpoint]

Dear Sisters & Illusions Magazine..

I have been a member and a faithful reader of our magazine for quite some time now. I always share this magazine with my wife to help her better understand my lifestyle. In the beginning she was very concerned with references to the Gay Community. Its difficult for me to confirm that I'm hetero when there is talk of the gay lifestyle mixed in a crossdressing magazine.

I would like to send a message out to the female readers that an understanding of alternative lifestyles does not mean that we are all necessarily part of that lifestyle but that you can appreciate that in the world of discrimination....we are ALL in it together. Its about time we started recognizing that all people have differences and display more caring for each other.

Obviously the articles in the magazine aren't meant to recruit anyone into anything they don't want to do, but to show support for alternate lifestyle communities.

I'm hoping in time that she will

completely realize that I have shared my innermost self with her and that she is a big part of my life. She need not be concerned that I have any more hidden secrets!

Over the year I have noticed that we can talk more freely about all sorts of subjects that used to be considered TABOO in our house!

So keep writing on all issues...You have helped "US" come along way..TOGETHER!

With love....A Devoted Reader.

.....
Dear Illusions Magazine..

I have my concerns..... about all of this crossdressing..I can't believe that I am writing to you but maybe my husband will read this and understand how I feel. I never really understood what makes a man want to dress up as a woman? It would be ok I guess..if he would dress as a woman...but he tends to dress like a cheap date. Sometimes he thinks that the tiniest skirt and the highest heels are attractive, probably on a young figure they would be..but my husband is far past that stage. If I were to go to work with those clothes on he was be less than impressed.. but he thinks its fine for him. Most of the time I am embarrassed and only hope that in time he gets away from the "Hooker" look and tones it down.

The other thing that bothers me is that when "she" is all dressed up... he seems to forget how to have a simple conversation. Pretending to be a wallflower aggravates me and I find myself having to talk too much for the both of us and "taking control" of every situation.

Right now she isn't a "girlfriend" I would choose..so I'm hoping that the power of suggestions will help.

Thanks for listening..... MRS.....
.....

Activism "For transsexuals 1994 is 1969"

Transgendered activists are a minority fighting to be heard within the gay and lesbian community

As organizers for the Stonewall 25 march were completing their preparations, they found themselves facing a potentially embarrassing threat from an unexpected source. Angry at having been excluded from the march's formal title - the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People - transgendered activists were planning to stage civil disobedience actions on the march route.

"It was a symptom of the mainstream (gay and lesbian) community's trying to get civil rights passed by not accepting the whole community," says Denis Norris, a member of Transsexual (sic) Menace, a direct action group in New York City.

The protest was called off less than 24 hours before the march, but not until the activists felt their point had been made. "We caused the Stonewall people a lot of stress for not including us in the title," says Phyliss Randolph Frye, executive director of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, a Houston-based group.

The dispute signalled the beginning of a newfound political activism. "It was our own Stonewall this year," contends Riki Wilchins, a member of Transsexual Menace. "For transsexuals 1994 is 1969.

But the political emergence of the transgender community, defined by

activists to include not only transsexuals but also individuals who dress in drag or crossdress, may not be a smooth one.

The events surrounding Stonewall 25 indeed marked a turning point, and not just because of the march gaffe. Gay Games IV also became a focus of controversy, adopting a detailed policy for transsexual participation that dealt with such matters as legal name changes, and the length of time the athlete had been taking hormones. After meeting with transgendered activists, the Gay Games board voted to drop the guidelines and to allow athletes to participate in events under what ever gender they declared.

"The transgendered community is very much more activist and more organized as a result of the controversy. Organizing social and support events has been around for a long time but as far as demanding our rights, its still in the early stages," insists Frye. Buoyed by their successes, activists are expanding their strategies. In New York City organizers are developing an outreach program and this year at the Womyn's Music Festival in Michigan (where a three-year debate has been raging about whether a transsexual should be allowed to participate) there will be a workshop set up over a four-day period.

The increased visibility also includes at least one transgendered candidate



seeking political office. Karen Ann Kerin, a Vermont Republican is seeking election to the states house of representatives. An engineer who travels frequently, says that her political activism began when she tried without success to change her sex legally in order to avoid discrepancy on her passport.

"I determined that the only thing to do is to get elected and make noise from a higher platform," she says.

Frye maintains that individuals beginning sex reassignment are often subject to discrimination, particularly in the workplace. Most nondiscrimination ordinances provide little relief from such problems. "We have to come together to work for the common good because if we're fragmented, we'll be easy to pick off." But the struggle within the transgendered community may be uphill at best. To begin with, not all its members identify with gay activism. Not everyone is gay, lesbian, or bisexual leaving a huge heterosexual population that is transgendered.

Moreover, not all transgendered individuals welcome the high profile of Christine Jorgensen, the pioneering transsexual who lectured extensively and became a media celebrity in the early '50s. There's a lot of assimilationist attitude among transgendered people.

Despite the diversity's and pitfalls the transgendered communities remain optimistic. With so many leaders and activists coming up now, the future holds great promise.

beauty ideas

All the news and what to use in skin care, makeup, hair

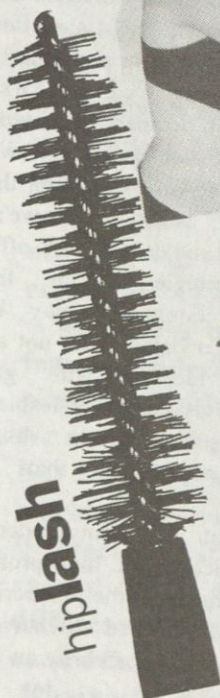
★ TRICK OF THE TRADE ★

To keep wet mascara from smudging after it's on, some women just close their eyes and blast their eyelashes for a couple of seconds with a blow-dryer on the cool setting. It really works.

★ TRICK OF THE TRADE ★

NEVER EVER WEAR red shadow on eyes.

Wide-tooth combs are gentle detanglers.

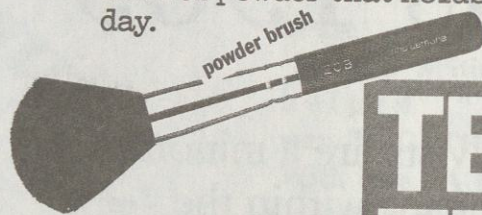


weird makeup fact

Say Ahhhhhh. Opening your mouth and raising your eyebrows sky-high when you apply mascara helps stretch the skin around your eyes to keep mascara off your eyelids and where you want it—on lashes.

Tint Tools

It's ironic, but the best way to achieve the no-makeup look is to use the proper tools. Sponges and small brushes make blending easy, and powder puffs allow for that imperceptible dash of powder that holds makeup in one place all day.



TEN BASE ERRORS

Going bare may be the ideal, but most of us have something to hide. There are ways, though, to give the illusion of wearing nothing. Here, the experts tell us the big flaws, and ways to hide the camouflage.

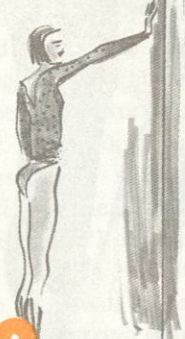
1. Demarcation at the jawline. Makeup artist Sonia Kashuk recommends testing foundation on the jawline right at the counter. It should match the neck.
2. A pink face. Women should be aware of the predominance of yellow undertones in their skin, says Kashuk. Makeup that looks too yellow in the jar may very well blend in perfectly with the skin color.
3. Accentuated wrinkles. According to Kashuk, a heavy, thick foundation is more likely to get caught in and highlight wrinkles than a light, sheer foundation will.
4. An ashen face. Foundation with too much titanium dioxide can give black women an ashen look. Makeup artist Laura Mercier recommends sheer makeup with yellow undertones to give invisible coverage.
5. Disappearing foundation. Mercier recommends fixing foundation with translucent powder in the morning. By the afternoon it will take on that little bit of shine that everyone wants these days.
6. Caked foundation. According to Mercier, foundation should be applied sparingly, not layered on to cover imperfections. "It's meant to even out skin tone," she says. "Concealer is for hiding things."
7. Flagrant concealer. Mercier suggests blending concealer at the edges with a tiny brush, then applying foundation on top so that the concealer is properly concealed.
8. Projecting pimples. Mercier recommends concealer a shade lighter than one's skin so that it covers the red, dark blotches.
9. Oil slicks. New York dermatologist Patricia Wexler recommends using an oil-absorbing product (she likes Seban from Cabot Labs) under foundation on grease-prone areas like the nose.
10. Contaminated tools. Wexler recommends washing makeup brushes with soap and water once a week. Sponges, she says, must be frequently replaced.

Bodyline

BODY BASIC:

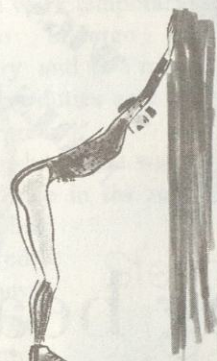
Upper chest stretch

This move releases the chest muscles that can become shortened due to hunching. It's a great posture improver, too.



1 Stand a little less than an arm's length away from a wall, and press right hand into the wall about 12 inches above the shoulder.

2 Lean toward wall, keeping right hand and hips in place as far as you can (your body will rotate slightly to left). Hold for 10 breaths. Switch sides and repeat.



Self-shiatsu: Back of the neck is prime tension territory. . . . Shiatsu is an excellent way to release it. Using all four fingers, rub, push, and pull, in a rhythmic motion, on neck's tension points. Press softly at first, then more strongly. Massage one side, then the other. Finally, place hands on nape with fingers intertwined; massage neck by squeezing palms toward one another.

Progressive relaxation: Train your body to recognize the difference between tension and relaxation; the next time you feel yourself tighten up, you'll know how to stop it. Sit or lie down; take a deep breath. Close your eyes and relax. Tense the muscles in your right foot, concentrating on the tension. Hold tight for a few seconds, then release. Next, tense left foot the same way. Coordinate breathing with your tense-relax rhythm. Work on one muscle group at a time: legs, buttocks, abdomen, back, arms, shoulders, all the way up to facial muscles.

Aromatherapy.

This ancient art utilizes the healing properties of aromatic oils found in flowers and plants. Essences are used in massage and bath oils to soothe, tranquilize and invigorate! A comforting soak or full-body run with soothing oils can dekind and calm the spirits!

health

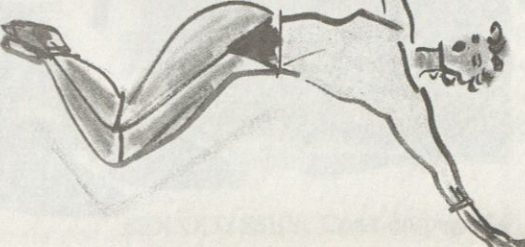
BODY BASIC: Waist slimmer

This move trims and tightens the waist.



1. Lie on back, knees bent and together, feet on the floor and hip-width apart. Extend arms to sides with palms down. Inhale, and on the exhale, flatten stomach and slowly lower knees to left, without forcing. Feet may roll off floor.

2. Tightening waist muscles, return to starting position. Repeat on opposite side. Start with 10 reps, work up to 35 on each side.



CONDOMS:

The good, the bad and the leaky

ALL CONDOMS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL. A research group put more than 30 brands of latex condoms through their paces (simulating the rigors of intercourse by unrolling, stretching, pulling, elongating and inflating them with air and water), they found certain brands were more likely to break than others. "This isn't only about inconvenience or pregnancy risk, it's about being able to trust that your condom will protect you against sexually transmitted diseases and HIV." You can get more information about a refrigerator than you can about a condom!

THE BEST(lowest levels of leakage and breakage):

Ramses Non-Lube
Ramses Sensitol
Gold Circle Coin
Gold Circle
Sheik Elite

THE WORST(highest levels of leakage and breakage):

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Trojan Ribbed
Trojan Naturalube Ribbed
LifeStyles Nuda
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BOOBIES

SHOES

A Sex-Change Odyssey

Stephanie Thorne recently realized a lifelong dream: to be the man she always felt she was. Now, as Stephan Thorne, he's finding that his journey has just begun.

After she had told the police chief and her captain, San Francisco police sergeant Stephanie Ann Thorne reported to work and prepared herself for the 4.00pm announcement. The press were sitting with her fellow officers when she started to tell them her story. "I am a transsexual, female to male and I will be transitioning on the job. I will leave work temporarily, long enough to undergo sex reassignment surgery; and as a man, I will be resuming my duties as a San Francisco police sergeant!"

When she was finished there was an extremely thick silence in the room.

Some looked wary but no one had snickered or turned away. They looked compassionate and when the questions began it was protocol they wanted to understand first: What were they supposed to call her, or him, once the surgery was done?

"Call me Steph," said Sergeant Thorne.

TRANSITIONING: Such a calm phrase suggesting not a sudden transformation but a controlled slide; a movement, passage or change. Sergeant Stephan Andrew Thorne, a 39 year old police officer with broad shoulders and clipped blond hair and a parrot tattoo on his arm is transitioning. Part way there. The hormones take a long time to completely kick in and the surgeries are not over yet.

His proportions look male, sort of: He's stocky, bigger than he wants to be (he's losing weight), thick around the middle. His hands and feet look female- there's still some delicacy in the contours, although the backs of his fingers have sprouted soft, dark hair, like the hair that is thickening up the length of his legs. His voice is low and slightly raspy. His chest is broad and flat under his sleeveless T-shirt.

He has a feminine way of moving his fingers when he talks, and a masculine way of setting his weight on both feet and jamming a hand into his pocket when he answers the phone. His face

is smooth-skinned, open, friendly, faintly soft: the rounded line of his jaw and kind hazel eyes.

She was raised in Lincoln, N.E., the younger of two daughters of a single mother, and she was told many years later that early on there were small hints, dropped and ignored, like the doctor who looked at her as a baby and said jokingly, noticing her big barrel chest, This kid should have been a boy!

She refused to wear dresses; when she was

baptized as a child, she ripped off the baptismal dress the instant the ceremony was over and reappeared, relieved, in blue jeans and cowboy boots. She played football with the boys. She had beloved family friends who always called her Mike. She bowed, miserably to the dress code at school, but she would put pants on under the obligatory skirts.

Gym class was particularly excruciating. Thorne was humiliated almost beyond endurance with the uniforms. "When I read stories now of boys being made to wear dresses for punishment, I think, Oh, I know how that kid felt," Thorne says. "I felt as a kid that I should have been a boy. I knew that physically I was not a boy- I had the anatomy of a girl, and I had my family and school telling me I was a girl- but I just felt that I should have been a boy. In stories and movies I never identified with the female, always with the male."

She knew from the earliest stirrings of sexual feelings that she was attracted to women, but there was no open gay life in Lincoln. She confided in her sister's friend and set off to Omaha to go to gay bars. She found a few girlfriends and endured the full passage through puberty, appalled by breasts and menstruation, convinced that her own body was betraying her. She began dressing in drag sometimes with a fake moustache and a man's blazer and her blonde hair cut in one on those androgynous, clean cut shags.

Was she already what the modern psychiatric textbooks would call a transsexual? "A persistent discomfort and sense of inappropriateness about one's assigned sex" is the opening definition of transsexualism in the American Medical Manual which proceeds in more detail; Invariably there is the wish to live as a member of the other sex....People with this disorder usually complain that they are uncomfortable wearing the clothes of their assigned sex. These people often find their genitals repugnant, which may lead to persistent requests for sex reassignment by hormonal and surgical means. The estimated prevalence is one per 30,000 for males and one per 100,000 for females.."

She knew enough about the "hormonal and surgical means" to understand the more dramatic steps that a desperate person could take. But for a long time she wasn't desperate. Lesbian culture had suitable niches for a young woman with strongly

Stephanie



Age 12

A WIVES' BILL OF RIGHTS

BY FRANCES FAIRFAX



1. We have the right to know about our husbands crossdressing, preferably before marriage, but certainly when our husbands begin to make crossdressing a significant factor in their lives and wish to contact support groups.

2. We have the right to honest and open communication with our husbands, with negotiation and compromise on both sides, particularly in regard to allocation of family resources and in matters pertaining to telling our children. Old patterns of selfishness and deception must cease.

3. We have the right not to be pushed to "accept" things before we have had time to learn enough about them and to begin to get used to them.

4. We have the right to our husbands as men, the men we married, men who maintain a positive, healthy masculinity while "exploring their femininity" and seek neither to evade responsibilities nor to appropriate our own feminine roles.

5. We have the right to support groups for ourselves that promote our own personal growth and well-being, help us understand our husbands needs and provide tools for relationship building.

6. We have the right to our husbands masculine male bodies. Neither partner in a marriage or a relationship has the right to alter body features without the full knowledge and consent of the other.

7. We have the right to support groups for our husbands that encourage their feminine development without denigrating healthy masculinity, that welcome us as full members on an equal basis with our husbands, and that fully support relationship commitments.

8. We have the right not to be mocked and demeaned by sexually explicit or otherwise offensive conversation, dressing and behaviour at group meetings.

9. We have the right not to be pressured to attend group gatherings at public locations, night clubs, or other places that pose security risks.

10. We have the right to be asked for our permission before our clothes, makeup, jewelry, or other personal items are borrowed.

11. We have the right to personal time in which to get in touch with our own femininity, pursue our personal growth, and work on creative projects.

12. We have the right to expect local, regional and national gender organizations and conventions to fully support and promote these rights in their programs and policies.

(This article was taken from SWEETHEART CONNECTION a newsletter for Wives and Partners ..Tapestry '94)

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Develop a Female Voice

by Melanie Ann Phillips



Develop a Female Voice! Nothing gets you read faster than a voice that doesn't match your appearance.

Clothes may make the man, but it is voice that makes the woman.

Whether you are a crossdresser or transsexual, developing a truly **FEMALE** voice- not just a feminine one-is of paramount importance. When I began my transition, there was electrolysis to worry about, mannerisms...but it was voice that was the greatest obstacle. I tried simply feminizing my voice, softening the voice I had. I tried raising my pitch artificially, arriving at that bad falsetto that forms the stereotype of the transgendered, marking them as parodies rather than the real thing. I even considered vocal chord surgery, but that made me nervous.

I had just about resigned myself to that risk, when I stumbled on how to learn to sound female! To begin, I discovered seven important tools for developing a female voice. These tools are Pitch, Resonance, Dynamic Range, Enunciation, Vocabulary, Grammar and Body English.

PITCH: Most people assume that the primary difference between men's and women's voices is Pitch. We shall see that the difference in pitch between the sexes is minimal.

RESONANCE: The modulation of whatever pitch you have. It puts the envelope on the voice that takes the pitch and assigns it Timbre.

DYNAMIC RANGE: The difference between the highest highs and the lowest lows that a person uses while speaking. Men use a very narrow dynamic range, even though they are capable of extending that range. It is

simply a matter of training. Women use a much Wider dynamic range, which is what gives their voices more of a "sing/song" effect.

ENUNCIATION: The way you pronounce your words. There is a female dialect that transcends languages and cultures.

VOCABULARY: Yes, there are masculine and feminine words. Some words are almost exclusively reserved for males and others for females.

GRAMMAR: When one forms words into sentences, the ORDER of words as well as modifiers and parentheticals, change the position of power of the speaker.

BODY ENGLISH: The way you move while speaking. It has an actual impact of how the voice itself will sound. You can improve the femininity of your voice - even on the phone!

PITCH: What do Cher, Bea Aurther and Marlene Dietrich have in common? They all have VERY low voices! In fact, they have voices LOWER in pitch than most men! These voices are sexy, husky, not masculine.

How do they get away with that? The average difference in pitch between the male and female voice is only about a half octave. Its not how HIGH you pitch your voice, but where you pitch it from that makes all the difference!

RESONANCE: Imagine the same note being played by a violin, a trumpet and an oboe. They all sound different, even though they are all playing the same frequency. This is because the tone is "modulated" differently. Men have larger voice boxes and a more low-end resonance. Women have smaller voice boxes and as a result, less low end resonance. The trick is to use LESS of your voice, so instead of adding something to your voice, you need to suppress instead.

Put your fingers of one hand on the top of your larynx, at the top of your Adam's apple. Place the fingers of your other hand at the very bottom of the larynx, below the Adam's apple. Now, speak aloud in your normal masculine voice. You will note that both the top AND bottom of the larynx vibrate almost equally as you speak. Keeping your fingers in place, go into a falsetto and speak. You will note that there is hardly ANY vibration in either the Top or Bottom. This effectively cuts the part of the voice box used in half, losing the lowest of the harmonics, leaving almost EXACTLY the same range of harmonics as a genetic female. The female voice I've discovered feels like it sits "behind" your normal voice.

DYNAMIC RANGE: is the difference between the highest and lowest pitch used in conversation. Women use this range to put emphasis into their chatter. Men will "punch" some words and hold others back to "make their point", while women will go up and down in pitch keeping the same loudness. This is a striking difference in speech patterns and is a key identifier of a masculine or feminine personality.

You'll notice the difference in the way women speak when you call them on the phone. A female receptionist will sound higher in pitch so as to be cheerful and non-threatening.

When men in business get together its a competition, when women in business get together its a conspiracy.

SPEECH...can't on next page.....

This difference in approach and status is reflected in the higher or lower tonal range that a woman adopts depending on the gender of the other party.

Another aspect of Dynamic Range is "stair step tonalities". In every group of several words a woman strings together in a sentence, usually no two are spoken at the same pitch. This is what makes women's voices sound so "sing/song." In fact, they ARE singing! Sometimes the stair steps go down lower into that conspiratorial tone. Other times they go up to raise the emotional stakes. Speaking in stair step tonalities is best learned by listening to others, but it is learned, not intrinsic. Just like Dynamic Range, it is a function of conditioning rather than of biology. So, Dynamic Range is largely a masculine/feminine issue rather than a male/female one.

ENUNCIATION: describes the shape into which words are formed. Men lean toward denotation rather than connotation. Men get the job done as quickly as possible with the most focus. When speaking, they hit edges of words like square waves, cutting each one like they were chopping carrots. In contrast, women are not as concerned with the meaning of a word as with its context, and that context is expressed in a more flowing, graceful manner. Women will round the edges of their words.

I suggest that you rent either Whoopi Goldberg's stand-up comedy routine on video or the movie "Valley Girls". Both have the feminine dialect down pat. It is MUCH easier to go overboard to an extreme and then tone it down than try to build up from where you are now.

"Female Dialect", is the enunciation and dynamic range of femininity applied to every language and every culture in the world. The words and grammar may change, but the connotations of the feminine meaning is a universal language that can be understood from woman to woman in times and worlds apart.

VOCABULARY: Think about the phrase, "I got a pain in my gut." Who would say that, a man or a woman? A woman might say, "I have a pain in my stomach," or "my tummy hurts"..... the point being that some words are more masculine or feminine than others. Part of this again derives from the brokering of power. A man usually "wants" something while a woman "would like" something. "Want" expresses a desire and implies a right, while "would like" states a preference, running the idea up the flagpole to see if anyone is against it before acting. You can hear the difference in voices in a drive-thru fast food joint. Men will say, "I want a Big Mac," whereas a woman will say, "I'd like a salad please." Another thing men do is slur. They might say, "I hafta gotta the store." "Hafta" is not a word! A woman might say, "I ought to.." "Have to" is driven by need. "Ought to" is driven by should. Look for these power words and, if you want to be feminine, avoid them like the plague.

GRAMMAR: Grammar deals with sentence structure and parentheticals. Men are supposed to be assertive in our society, women submissive. Women can have moods but now opinions. Men might say they were "going to do" something, but women would say "I'm thinking of doing" something. The terms are of men and women because of our society sex standards but I'm actually referring to the matter of masculine vs feminine. This article is not about breaking stereotypes, but becoming one.

BODY ENGLISH: This is how you move when you speak. Body English supports voice and voice supports Body English. If a feminine voice is like a song, feminine Body English is like a dance. When you put the song and the dance together, they create harmonies between them that underscore and counterpoint, making the entire process a symphony. The most interesting part is that voice and Body English actually change each

other. Try saying something while standing absolutely still. Then try speaking with broad gestures. You will hear a difference in your voice just because you are moving. Many gender folk using the phone get so nervous they freeze up physically and it can be heard loud and clear in their voice. But if you move in rhythm to your thoughts, your voice will follow. Even on the phone you will sound more feminine AND more human.

This is what I have learned from my personal experience. Use the seven steps to achieve a fully feminine voice: Pitch, Resonance, Dynamic Range, Enunciation, Vocabulary, Grammar and Body English. The first six will make you sound like a woman, and the last will convince everyone that you are one!

about
the
author
MELANIE ANNE PHILLIPS

Ms. Phillips is a 41 year-old postoperative "Biber Baby." She is still married with two children. A media professional, she attended University of Southern California School of Cinema and then worked for 15 years as a writer/director/editor in the motion picture business having directed two features before the age of thirty.

Melanie founded the America Online Gender Group in July 1991 and has also published an online gender magazine called The Subversive.

She is currently working on "Raised by Wolves: A transsexual Diary" which is soon to be available in book form.

P.S. If you would like a copy of her audio visual demonstration of her talking techniques.... ILLUSIONS Library is able to acquire copies for you (at a cost)...This 49 minute VHS video is called... **"GIRL TALK : Melanie Speaks about Developing a more feminine voice."**

(Article from TV/TS Tapestry: # 69)

GENDER OUTLAW on men, women and the rest of us...



Western Culture would define a man by the presence of a penis. Some would define a woman by the presence of a vagina. Its not that simple though.

Are you a man because you have a XY Chromosome? A woman because you have a XX? If you have never taken a chromosome test, how do you know what gender you are? Can you be sure what gender your partner is? Some people have chromosome sets of XXY, YYY, XYY and XO! Are these people more than 2 genders?

What makes a man? Testosterone? Woman - Estrogen? If so, you could buy your gender over the counter at any pharmacy!

Are you a woman because you can bear children? Because you bleed each month? After menopause, do women cease to be women then?

Are you a man because you can father children? What if your sperm count is too low or rendered sterile? Are you then a woman?

Are you a woman or a man because your birth certificate says so?

According to our culture a doctor decided what you were merely based on what was showing of your external genitals. You never had a say in this most irreversible of all

pronouncements.

What if you'd been born a hermaphrodite, with some combination of both genitals? You would of been surgically fixed into a specific gender.

What does a man feel like?

What does a woman feel like?

Do you feel like a man, or a woman?

Kate Bornstein the author of "Gender Outlaw" asks and answers questions dealing with gender identity. Kate has been through serious changes. A former heterosexual male and IBM salesperson, now a lesbian woman writer; she compassionately covers the mechanics of her transsexual surgery as well as everything you've always wanted to know about gender (but were too confused to ask)!

Now living in San Francisco, Kate is busy working on various gender plays and books as well as being a familiar face on the TV Talk Show Circuits.

Going through a gender change would not be the easiest thing in the world to do.

"Adults don't ask, Adults are afraid to ask...What are you? So instead we ask, What do you do?, in hopes of getting a clue to someone's identity. We hardly ever ask outright - What kind of sex do you like? When it comes to sex and gender, we're supposed to observe discreetly and draw our own conclusions," says Kate.

While her thoughts are her own, she has an interesting way of creating a gender blender of thoughts.

What if you followed the Lone Ranger out of town and discovered that this masked crusader was a woman? Would your opinion of this hero change?

When Batman and Catwoman try to get it on sexually, it only works when they are both in their caped crusader outfits. The sexuality between latex rubbing on leather skin is intoxicating, gender being less relevant.

Kate Bornsteins talking about her new play, Virtually Yours: Believe it or not, its about this transsexual lesbian performance artist whose

female lover is becoming a guy. Where do I get this stuff?

She laughs. "Sometimes I think I'm channelling Victor/Victoria.

In fact, Bornstein's material comes right from her life and of her transformation eight years ago from Albert to Kate and the crucial questions that followed. "Its basically a theory of gender I've been working on since about six months after my genital surgery, when I found out that after all that work, I wasn't a woman and I wasn't a man, and there was no other place for me.

Her play Hidden: A Gender and The Opposite Sex Is Neither, has toured nationally and has made alot of folks nervous- and not just the right wingers. Her vision includes anybody who admits they have issues with gender that need examination.

Gender Outlaw is an eye-opening book, combining the emotional force of her coming out process: a little from here, a little from there.

She's been called both an icon and a Benedict Arnold, which no doubt means she's doing something right.

"I'm not a trailblazer," she asserts.

"I'm not a politician. I'm much more comfortable as a court jester, the Danny Kaye of the transgendered community. When you stop playing the fool and start playing the expert, that's when you stop evolving.

My Life as a Gender Outlaw

Kate Bornstein argues eloquently and passionately for scrapping the categories of women and men. Agree. Disagree. Read it!! Gender Outlaw is a great work of love.

(Portions from this article have been taken from Out Magazine July 1994.. writer..K.M. Soehnlein)

P.S. We are really thrilled to now have a copy of this book here in the Illusions Library. If you would like your own copy, several book stores in our area carry this book!

Barbie.

Illusions Social Studies

With the Girls of Summer II party marking the end of a lovely summer, it's now the start of the season for shorter days and cooler weather. There's a blessing though for an Illusions crossdresser at this time of year, the nights are getting longer and that means it's easier to venture out 'en femme' for many of the girls. With each coming Illusions social we'll be seeing more of our friends, and the numbers will crest by the time we get to the 4th annual Christmas Pot Luck in December. That party, by the way, is one of our most popular events of the year, we wish the best of season to one-another, eat well and donate food and toys to the Food Bank and Women's Shelter. Watch for the next Illusions magazine for full details, available in November.

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Pictured above is our first Stampede BBQ, a successful fundraiser for the Social Committee. We sold hot dogs, smokies and Fredelle's special-pink Stampede punch to the girls who, for the first time, socialized outside the doors of Illusions in favour of the grass lot at the back door, a secluded area which allowed us to take in the warm summer evening.

We regret that there won't be a Las Vegas Nite on Sept 10, but there will still be 'welcome back' fun on that date. With the Girls of Summer II party being so close, it was hard to organize two large events, so we have put off Las Vegas Nite until the New Year, save your pennies til' then.

You won't be treated to any more of Terri's delicious chocolate treats at coming socials until we see her at the Christmas Potluck, she's out of town on business. We eagerly await her return.

Listed below are the coming Socials we have planned for you, please attend, you won't regret the fun that we have.

Thurs. Sept. 29 - Passport to Pleasure Get your own Illusions special ID, think of it as a girl license (Non official document)

Sat. Oct. 15 - Dress For Pleasure Come dressed anyway you dare. Hooker, Lingerie, Nurse, Nun, whatever you 'please'.

Thurs. Oct. 27 - Fashion Show Back by demand

Throne Speech

Musings
by
Empress IV
Lisa

I realize that like any time to always do what you want. We have family and work to deal with before our femme sides can be nurtured, and when we do dress up to be our second self, the time just flies. This summer I had hoped to attend as Empress some community events, but work needs had to come first so I regret I couldn't be at the AGRA Rodeo or Edmonton Coronation. Regardless, the Social Committee and I had great success with the Girls of Summer II, and \$200 was raised to buy lighting for the club stage and bar, plus new education books for the library. Thanks to all who attended and helped with the event, let's try it again next year.

Further into the fall schedule, I plan to attend the Alta Summit on Sept 30th, bring the Illusions chapters together in Red Deer on Oct 22 for a party and greeting of potential new Central Alta. members, encourage social activities for our Edmonton socials so that they can be as fun as the ones we are currently having in Calgary and continue my greeting letters to new members.

All the best ladies, see you at Illusions.

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Illusions on the Road

For all Illusions gals, lets meet here on
Saturday Oct. 22, for a night of fun in R.D.

THE OTHER PLACE



Bay 3 & 4, 5579 - 47th Street

Red Deer, Alberta

T4N 1S1

Call 342-6440

Located In Cronquist Business Park

All those interested in Illusions, and friends
are most welcome. Let's get to know each other

Sat. Oct. 29 - Halloween Outing Not a club event,
See your friends at the club for details.

Sat. Nov. 12 - TV Bingo Another back by demand

Letter from the Editor

Blah, Blah, Blah

ny Summer Holidays.....

and some swimming, suntanning, playing, education and ach!!

ing space in a campground with ies that seem to have more than required limit of 2.2 children is

"never a dull moment"!

Fun and sun at the beach is a wonderful way of relaxing and recharging one's physical batteries...but let me tell you - around the "adult" campfire is a shock to the mental battery!

The conversations around the great outdoors is as varied and as interesting as the people themselves.

Here's some of the highlights.....

My latest copy of "Clue Magazine" that I'd been reading one afternoon in the sun turned out to be quite a colourful vehicle for thoughts and chatter. Starting with the 7 year old daughter of a neighbouring family (who have actually known us for 3 years now, on a very summer casual basis and think that we are from Mars I'm sure) but anyways... This girl plunked down beside me and asked what I was doing...Seconds later she Shrieks and yells UUUEEEEE! Well... thinking that some huge B.C. Lake Bug was about to chew on us I jumped up ..to discover that she's actually ranting and raving about the cover photo of the magazine.... two athletes (men) kissing in celebration at the recent Gay Games.

I was angry that this had sickened her.. and worse yet.. who had trained this young social animal to think this way! If it had been two women on the cover in the exact situation would there have been as much drama? As I scrambled for words.. so that I could make sense of thisI asked.... Has your father ever kissed your brother? The response was "Yuck"..... Ok.. I'll go along with the theory that not

all teenage boys appreciate their fathers or mothers or family kissing them.... but it almost sounds like boys don't get the loving and caring that girls are more than burdened with. Back to the "two men kissing" issue.... This wasn't even two lovers... just nicety's between happy people! And still a negative reaction.

Anyways.. with most children (and some adults) her concentration span was real short..... BUT later I cornered her mom on the story. I replayed the tape for her and she seemed surprised that her offspring would feel that way.. how ever could she have thought that? Well it was a bit clearer when her advice on life was.. "What other people do is their own business.... as long as they don't shove it down my throat!"

GASP.... sort of sounds like people think they're accepting just as long as their right wing fences don't get rattled.

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Another bit of chatter... One mom was telling me about how hard this past year has been on a very good friend of hers. This friend had her only son come home to die.... Now in small town B.C. that could be either a situation that gets hidden away or everyone knows.... especially when the subject is AIDS. It was a tough year but the family did their best and most of the town came forth with food and words of encouragement... but the LOUSY ending here is that when the death was announced in papers etc...

They called it CANCER!!!!!! Instead of dealing with the issue...they tried to sweep it under the rug. sigh.....

Then there was the pretty cool older couple that parked beside us for a few days.... they were real social flies and asked "What do you do for a living"?....I was hesitant... "DO you really want to know"? "Sure".... Ok.... So he got quite an earful and like most things **TRUTH** sometimes is alot more interesting than Fiction! I told him all about the store catering to all fetishes... mostly crossdressing and leather goodies. Well instead of the standoffish attitude that one would expect (..or even a nervous giggle)... He was right on track. He rushed over to his camper and brought out the latest book on the bookstands... something about "Men being from Mars and Women from Venus....and now we're on planet Earth! He was fascinated with the male/female gender identity issue and was really open to all sorts of lifestyles. I was thrilled to educate someone on a subject that is so closeted. HE WANTED TO KNOW! Just like the kids that are back to school... they need input and its up to us to help that process.. shed the misconceptions and ridiculous media hype on the extremists!

With a new season coming up I have a few ideas for this magazine... to get some honest input... I think at Social Functions we could take a few minutes out of the festivities and write down some thoughts... maybe we'll have a topic in mind.... I would also really like to see some evenings where we bring in some "supposed???" professional people that "supposedly?" help people coming to terms with crossdressing.... and WE EDUCATE THEM!! Could be fun and very valuable for all of us.

"Call me sometime.. WE'll Chat!!!! Love Barbie

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Lovely Diane has been an Illusions member for over a year, in that time she has grown from being the shy girl in the corner, to a Princess representing our club. We let Diane tell her own story; she reveals her pain and joy in the pursuit of femininity.

Diane was born into a large Edmonton family with 2 sisters and a brother and as far as I can tell I started crossdressing as early as age 4 or 5. My mom kept a basket of clothes and a shoe rack behind her bed and for some unexplainable reason, I occasionally went behind the bed to put on the clothes and shoes, but I always took them off very quickly for fear of being discovered. When I reached my early teenage years, I don't know if it was puberty or if it was all those girls I saw in miniskirts, but I all of a sudden had an increased desire to crossdress and I wasn't satisfied to occasionally borrow some of my sisters' things to try on, I now had to have my own personal wardrobe; besides my sisters' had terrible taste in fashion. Being a poor teenager in the seventies with no job and an allowance of \$2 a week, I wasn't about to go out and buy Channel evening gowns, and besides I was terrified at the

Calgary. I said my goodbyes, severed the ties of security with the family and as soon as my family hit the city limits, I was on the next Greyhound back to Edmonton to rescue Diane. I packed a suitcase full of newspapers and when I got to the university I dumped out the paper and packed Diane's things. When we rolled back into Calgary, I remember getting off the bus and thinking "We're finally free!" So many emotions were racing through my head that I picked up a suitcase and raced out the door of the bus depot, not knowing that I had picked up the wrong suitcase. "Hey buddy, yagot the wrong suitcase." I looked down at the suitcase and it was the same design and colour but the baggage tag told me of my horrendous error. My heart was again beating at a hundred miles an hour because I realized that I almost lost everything that was Diane. But as I plopped the suitcase down on the floor of my empty apartment I knew that a new chapter in my life was about to unfold. Diane was free and she would now be a very powerful influence in everything that I would do for the rest of my life. The first few years in Calgary were hectic with most of my time being spent on career development, so consequently I found very little time for Diane. Later on I took on a roommate and we purchased a house, that meant putting Diane back into the closet. I met my first girlfriend at the office and we entered into a complex four year relationship, but just as it was for my family, only to maintain the secrecy of my crossdressing was of paramount importance and not my roommate, nor the girl that wanted to spend the rest of my life with could ever know.

Two years later my roommate took a leave of absence from the company to get his masters degree and all of a sudden I had the whole house to myself. I began dressing a little more often and my desire for more elaborate outfits drove me back to shoplifting selected items from department stores. Then came the fateful day when I finally got caught. I later had my day in court, I stood in the

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prospect of having to purchase women's clothes so I became very adept at taking what I needed from department stores. By the time I had reached my high school years I had amassed quite a collection of feminine apparel which included shoes, lingerie and a shoulder length wig. I hid the clothes in some of the most imaginative places possible like inside a stereo speaker or behind the gyproc in our rumpus room.

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This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

Di I remember the first time that I ever went out dressed, I was about 14. No one was home so I put on a very short green and white dress, white sandals, my wig and I borrowed some of mom's make-up and I was ready to take a walk around the block. I got half way around the block when suddenly a guy in a muscle car pulled up, gave me a once over and said something like: "Hey babe, you wanna hop in and party!" Well, I was terrified at the prospect of being discovered as something that I wasn't, so I bolted down the alley and the guy yelled at me, "Hey, what's the matter b****, not good enough for you?" To my relief he drove away. I ran back into the house and closed the door. My heart was racing at a hundred miles an hour, but what I'll never forget about that experience is that this was Diane's first encounter with the public. When I graduated from university I now had a fairly large wardrobe but through it all my family never discovered my dressing secret. I landed a job with a major oil company in Calgary so I was about to live on my own and I could finally dress whenever the spirit moved me, but Diane's biggest problem was that my dad was helping me move so I couldn't move Diane's things for fear of being discovered, so I stored all of Diane's things in a locker which I still had at the U of A. I headed off to

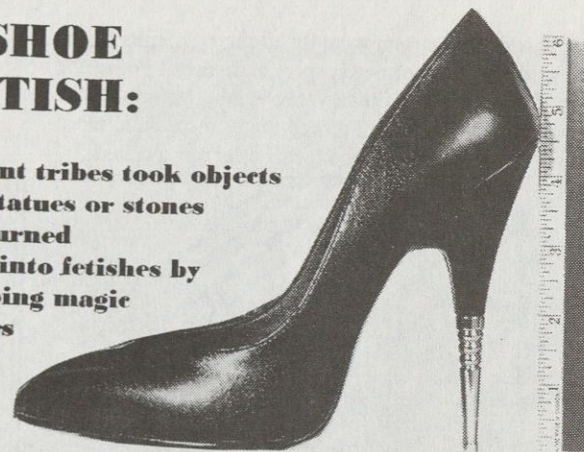
as they read out the charges. They went into precise detail about what was taken and how I attempted to take it. I listened to all the whispers in the courtroom and I knew they were all asking the same question: What was I doing stealing a dress? Well I left the courtroom as fast as I could with the knowledge that a small portion of the city knew of my secret. I vowed that because the law gives everybody a second chance, I would never steal again.

After a few months of sulking and purging, I got over the bad experience and I decided that I still wanted some nice outfits. I started buying stuff from the department stores, but then got to be a very expensive habit, not to mention that it sometimes got to be a little embarrassing for me, so I was very selective about what I bought and whether I really needed a particular item. It was in the late 1980's when the oil industry went bust and I became a layoff casualty. Soon after that my roommate finished his degree and came back with a wife in tow, which meant that we had to go our separate ways. I was back on my own in an apartment. Shortly after that, my relationship with the girlfriend ended, attributed mostly to my insecurities of being jobless which prevented my commitment to marriage, but more significantly was the fact that I still couldn't get myself to share my deepest secret.

See Diane's Story on Page 23

A SHOE FETISH:

Ancient tribes took objects like statues or stones and turned them into fetishes by ascribing magic powers to them.



Style #0305

Footwear can lead a path into fantasy, both for the wearer and the observer.. A woman in stockings and high heels is sexy and powerful, her buttocks raised to provocative new heights. The swish of her nylons rubbing together calls attention to her thighs and subtly to the treasures that lie between them.

A man might wear high heels to evoke an erotic memory, raise him to new heights of power, and turn him into the man or woman of his dreams.

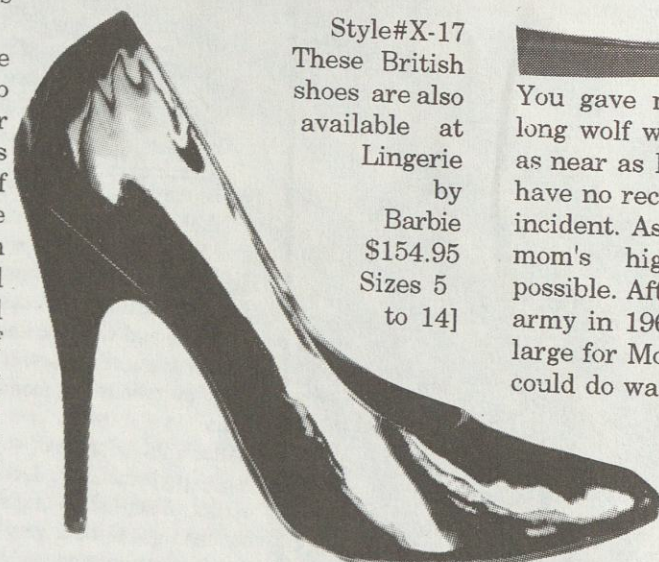
Bobby-socks and sneakers evoke memories of cheerleaders who flashed ruffled panties under cartwheeling skirts. White socks and sneakers are reminders of virginal innocence, gropes in the back seat and the fiery passion that inspired those first proud hickeys. Remember anklets and Mary-Janes and those games of doctor when you may have thrilled to those first sexual discoveries without really understanding what you felt or saw? High, tight leather boots are animal skins worn by Amazons, polished with lust.

To the fetishist, feet are not only sexy, feet are sex. This is reinforced in art and photography.

[*These shoes are available at Lingerie by Barbie....

Style #0305 for \$99.95, BLACK, WHITE & RED PATENT. Sizes range from 4 to 14!]

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Cinderella....The legend of Cinderella is really a story about feet! When her fairy godmother put Cindy's outfit together, she added glass slippers as the 'piece de resistance'. The clock struck 12 and Cinderella scurried home from the ball, leaving behind one tiny glass slipper. The handsome prince picked up the slipper and used it to track down Cinderella. He found the love of his life when he found the maiden whose foot fit the magical slipper."



Style#X-17
These British shoes are also available at Lingerie by Barbie \$154.95 Sizes 5 to 14]

It is easy to see the sexual significance of Cinderella's foot inside the glass slipper. "A perfect fit" feels great in the bedroom as well as the shoe store.

Did you know that about 1000A.D., the Chinese indulged themselves in a bizarre form of foot fetishism when they created foot-binding. No one knows exactly why, but bound feet

became a symbol of feminine sex and beauty. This may have worked as a sort of chastity belt. For in the words of Confucius, "Lover with bound feet can not run around."

[footnote from "Michael"]

"My mom told this story to me some years ago, 'When you were a little boy, I came downstairs to go on a dinner date. I was all dressed up and had on high heels.

Style #X-19
\$159.95



You gave me one of those real long wolf whistles! This quote is as near as I can remember, but I have no recollection of the actual incident. As a youth, I wore mom's high heels whenever possible. After discharge from the army in 1961, my feet were too large for Mom's shoes. The best I could do was to buy a my own

pair! They were a woman's size 10 with a 4 inch heel. All of this was too

inadequate. Later on I discovered an ad for ladies shoes in men's sizes! Within a year I had my first pair of 5"heels in a black patent leather pump. I still have the shoes and they are in excellent condition. I even have a pair of 6" heeled-oxfords or court shoes and a huge assortment of boots! I recently saw an ad for 7"heels! I've been putting my best foot forward ever since".

from page 21 - Diane's Story - Illusions Empress Diane

Well one day, the girlfriend unexpectedly came to my apartment while I was all dressed up. The stereo was on so she knew someone was home but she couldn't understand why I wouldn't answer the door. She left and we have never seen each other since. I guess I could have pursued her and confided my secret, but my will for complete secrecy always dominated my actions and that meant the relationship was to end forever.

Well, I lost my job, my girlfriend and my house. The only thing that was left which never failed to give me a small degree of happiness was Diane, and now she had my complete undivided attention. I discovered the thrift store circuit and found that you could buy really nice things for very little money and as I became a more frequent customer of the various thrift stores, I discovered which stores had regular sales and which stores had the best prices and soon I was buying stuff for next to nothing. I began purchasing as many things as I could afford and this went on to a point where it became a compulsive obsession which lead to massive problems in terms of concealing the mountain of clothes. The number of clothes and shoes soon grew into the hundreds, and it became a crossdressers dream come true, but the main drawback to this ecstasy was that I could no longer invite people to my apartment because the stuff was everywhere and I began dreading the day that my parents would drop by for a surprise inspection. But aside from that I kind of enjoyed buying what I call fantasy outfits like bridal gowns, bridesmaids dressed, uniforms and sexy lingerie. Now I could dress in what ever manner that I wanted given the mood I was in at the time. After a while the routine was getting a little boring. I would come back home from work

and put on some lingerie, an outfit, plop myself down on the sofa and watch TV. The only witness to this bizarre ritual of self admiration was my trusty cat who has been my best friend for the last 10 years and through it all she has remained very understanding and totally non-judgmental.

One day while reading the Calgary Herald, I came across an ad promoting the Illusions Social Club and it was the next day that Diane decided that she didn't want to be alone in the world anymore. I met Empress 1 Stephanie and for the first time I was able to confide in someone and I was able to relieve the stress of keeping a secret of over 25 years. At my first Illusions social meeting, I spent the first hour just sitting back and staring at everybody. It was so new and so bizarre for me to be in this particular setting. I didn't know anyone, I didn't know how to act and I didn't know what was expected of me. Well after a couple of hours of sitting and doing nothing I was starting to wonder if this was really such a good idea, then all of a sudden one of the ladies invited me to sit at their table, we made introductions and I opened the floodgates to tell someone the life of Diane, reliving years of built-up tension. It took another four months for me to be really

comfortable with this new situation and I finally gained enough courage to venture out to the bars with the rest of the girls at the end of socials. Each new place I visited was a new adventure, it never failed to create a sense of excitement in what used to be an ultra-conservative lifestyle.

For a girl who never even knew what beard cover was, Diane found the club members to be extremely helpful in providing a lot of helpful advice on how to improve her image. The change in Diane's image and the resulting increased self esteem was so dramatic that she actually gathered enough courage to go shopping at a local mall in full daylight, a feat considered a 'rite of passage' for this crossdresser. Other memorable events in Diane's life include the attending of the coronation ball in formal attire, getting hit-on for the first time in a bar, attending Barbie and Christine's wedding and to top it all off, running for Illusions Empress and winning Princess honours.

Diane has managed to pack an awful lot of new experiences in to one year and this has served to reduce alot of inhibitions that kept her prisoner in the closet for so long. She owes Illusions and all it's members a huge debt of gratitude. Being a member of Illusions changes almost every member who joins. With some of the girls, the change is subtle, with others the change is nothing short of incredible. The change for Diane is kind of in the middle. I still value my privacy and though it is becoming increasingly hard to keep the feminine world of Diane separate from the real world where her alter ego must work and exist, it is still of paramount importance that the secrecy be maintained in order for both lives to survive.

Diane dreams of the day when society will

allow crossdressers to peacefully co-exist and function with no fear, ridicule, or abuse. But until that day, Diane's best advice to all guys in dresses is be carefull out there, the world is not quite ready for us yet.

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

what's your pleasure?
then...

Dress For Pleasure

An Illusions party where you wear what you dare.

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Victorian, Hooker, Lingerie, Leather, Nurse, Siren, Nun, School Girl, Latex, Grecian, Spandex, Cat Woman, Nylon, Punk, etc.....

SEX ODYSSEY...from page 13

masculine inclinations and at one time believed that perhaps what she had wanted all along was not to be a man, but to act like a man - and that feminism was helping redefine the notion of acting like a man.

For two decades that was how she lived. She moved to California and worked in conventional macho jobs - she spent five years as a gas-pipeline maintenance worker before turning to police work where she was hired in 1984.

Stephanie was a well-respected police officer who earned her promotions; was open about her sexual orientation, comfortable in her police district and chosen president of the Women Officers Network. A few years ago though, she was becoming more and more unhappy, withdrawn, and socially uncomfortable.

She didn't know what it was. She found herself weeping at night and gradually realized that she was grieving for the fact that she was not a man!

"I began to believe that I was a Transsexual" Thorne says.

She joined a local support group and was full of questions: What were the surgeries like? What were the dangers of hormones? What was it like finding lovers?

The answers were complex, even in that small group and nationally they are more complex still. The standard course of treatment for a transsexual comes in several stages: extensive therapy, to make sure the person is genuinely suffering from what doctors sometimes called gender dysphoria; followed by regular hormone injection, followed - if the person decides to proceed - by surgeries.

The hormones alone are powerful business. A female changing to a male takes testosterone, an injection every couple of weeks; and the effects, many of which are irreversible, can be dramatic. The voice deepens, facial hair sprouts, the menses stop, muscle mass increases, the clitoris enlarges, and if there's a family history of baldness, the hairline recedes. Many transsexuals are so convincingly

altered by the steady intake of hormones that they dress and live as males without ever undergoing the full course of the surgeries. Its estimated that probably 75% of the people who are living as men have not had the genital reconstruction and may not ever have it, however they will opt for breast reconstruction.

Breast Removal - a double mastectomy is similar to that of a cancer patients removal and reconstruction and costs can run as much as \$7000...a sum rarely picked up by insurance companies. The options for the lower half are expensive and problematic. Surgeons can construct a penis, but the patient has to make what might be called a choice between good form and good function. An under-sized but sexually responsive penis can be fashioned from the existing female genital tissue; a normal-sized penis can be built through more elaborate surgeries, with skin or muscle grafted from other parts of the body and fashioned into a tube, but the bigger penis will not have natural erections (there are stiffening insets available) and may not have much sexual sensation.

It was a great deal for Stephanie Thorne to take in, and for awhile she wrestled with her own increasingly complicated feelings.

She decided to start injections in December 1993, and within a month the changes begun in her voice - his voice. Her hair was thickening, growing where it never had, the shape of her legs was changing, the extra weight on her body was rearranging itself from her hips and thighs up to her midsection. She was beginning the passage and as she began confiding in the people closest to her - her sister, her mother, a few women officers - an uneasy and intensely curious eye was fixed upon her.

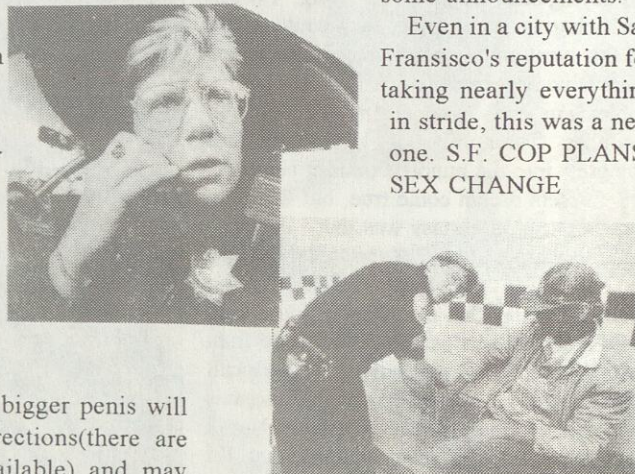
Friends asked her "Are you going to become an asshole now?" She

promised that she wouldn't do that! But something was happening inside. Physicians call it "Increased libido" and its a term used to the sexual characteristics brought on by testosterone. Hormones seemed to be rushing him through a second puberty, but one that felt far more pleasant than the first.

As predicted, he lost all uncertainty about taking off the breasts finding them ridiculous and thought he had odd mounds of flesh growing out of his arms. That was when he took out a loan and scheduled the first of the surgical procedures.

He had to make some decisions about work as well. City law in San Francisco protected his job under gender identity so he decided to make some announcements.

Even in a city with San Francisco's reputation for taking nearly everything in stride, this was a new one. S.F. COP PLANS SEX CHANGE



SURGERY!!

The station captain thought it was terrific...saying that Sergeant Thorne is obviously very tough and has alot of self confidence. He's been through alot in his life...and I think his expectations are reasonable. He knows there are going to be ups and downs with this, but he's not going to run from anything - he loves his profession, he's got a lot of years vested in police work, and I respect him for his decision. I know there are still officers who are having problems with this, but the longer Sergeant Thorne is back in the workplace, it will work.

His appearance will keep changing as he continues with the hormones, and he intends to finish out the

SEX ODYSSEY...Con't next page

SEX ODYSSEY...from page 24

surgeries; he has determined already that he wants the metiodioplasty, the procedure that results in a smaller but more sexually responsive penis. His vision of a romantic life in the future is still a mystery to him. People still ask alot of questions but he just lives day to day.

His own sister, who has been very accepting was saddened by the disappearance of the woman she grew up with. She had viewed her sister as an ally and a confidante and was worried over losing that part of her/him.

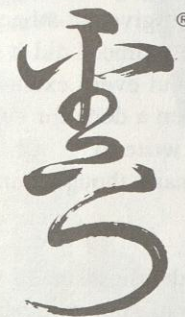
Steph feels that the basic human being is not going to change, the external is going to change and a few internal changes as well, but my spirit and my soul will be the same.

She will always be her sister, a daughter -even as I am a brother and a son!

A SEX-CHANGE ODYSSEY

by Cynthia Gorney
Photos by Bruce Davidson
Harper's Bazaar Sept. '94

HUBBY LOVES DRESSING UP IN MY UNDIES—AND IT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME



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I HAVE something to say to wives whose husbands like to dress up in women's clothing. My husband started dressing in my clothes two months after we were married, and it doesn't bother me at all.

It started when he asked if he could wear one of my caftans at his workbench in the basement. Pretty soon he was changing into my stuff every day when he came home from work. He loves my underwear.

Like you, I have done research on transvestism, and I can assure other wives that as long as hubby doesn't leave the house dressed up, they have nothing to worry about. Transvestites are rarely gay, therefore they are not "drag queens."

A bit bizarre? Sure. But who isn't a little strange? We all have our little foibles, don't we? What do you think, Meg? — Happy with Harry (not his real name), New Hampshire

DEAR HAPPY: It doesn't matter at all what I think. The only thing that really matters is what you think and how you feel.

If sharing undies with hubby is fun, it's nobody's business but your own. Just make sure the doors are locked and the blinds are drawn.

Check Out the LATEST Editions of European "Fetish" Magazines "O" & "SKIN TWO" at Lingerie by Barbie!

To whom it may concern..... I am writing in response to your Illusions magazine. I purchased it from a store here in Edmonton and was very impressed with its layout and excellent content. I am a 28 year old married hetero crossdresser and I have been crossdressing basically my entire life. It was very reassuring to see that in that there are many people here in Alberta with the same hobby. There are a couple of things I was wondering if you could help me with. First of all I was wondering if you could give me more information about your club, since I am very interested in becoming a member. Even though I have been crossdressing for a long time I feel that I could benefit greatly from the experience of your members. Help with makeup, dressing and general support would be greatly appreciated. Secondly, I know of the store that Barbie runs in Calgary and I was wondering if there were any stores in the Edmonton area that catered to crossdressers? I have found a few stores that were willing to deal with me and made me feel comfortable (usually be telling them I was going to a costume party!) As a result I have been able to create a decent wardrobe! Since no one knows of my crossdressing (not even my wife), .. Any information that you can give me will be greatly appreciated! Sincerely..... "Linda"

Letters

Dear Illusions Social Club.....
My name is Michelle and I love the magazine!
Keep up the good work! #268.

Dear Illusions Members..... It was great coming out for the first time, and being so warmly received by the other members, at the Stampede BBQ (and post party). I couldn't have dreamed of a better way to bring Yvonne out of the closet than at an Illusions event.

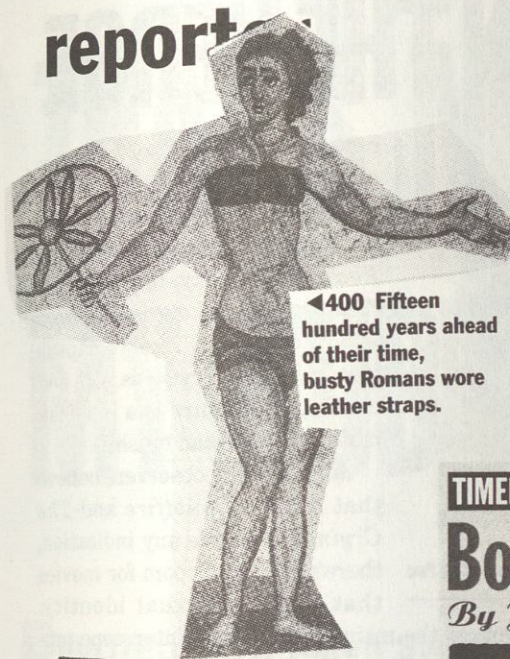
It was a night that I will never forget, (does anyone NOT remember the first time?). A sincere special thanks to Monica for making me feel so welcome. She was the first to come over and say hello and begin a conversation, and that really made me feel comfortable. I am glad I continued on to the house party after and got a chance to meet many more members and get to know people abit better. It was the first chance I have had to compare notes with other CDs, what a blast! Thanks to Christine, Michelle, Brenda, Sonya, Diane and Wendy for making my first night out a very enjoyable one. Since then I have had the opportunity to meet a few more member, get my makeup done and get my legs "sugared", which is a great way to remove hair. If anyone is interested in learning more, you can write me and I would be happy to direct you to the person I went to. I hope to make it to Calgary again soon to another Illusions event.....Yours in wig and lipstick.....Yvonne #301

Dear Barbie... Let me first say, that you are a very pretty lady! I couldn't decide who to write to but after I noticed your picture and ad, there was no doubt. In a way I am new at this and in a way I am not. I have been dressing as a girl as long as I can remember, but always privately. I got married at a fairly young age and now have 2 children and the rest is history. I have never talked to (or written) another crossdresser or TV. About a year ago my wife found out about my crossdressing and took it as well as can be expected. I have dressed in lingerie with her but she's not really into it. She is very bi-curious so I think it turns her on slightly but it also upsets her a great deal. I would like some advice on how to handle the situation with her. I am having very difficult feelings and when I see a magazine like yours there are many girls showing their stuff, it hurts even more. I suppose what I am interested in, is first finding another girl to talk to, and give me advice and just be "Chantal". Like a big sister to discuss girl things with. I have not gone out in public for a long time. I did it several times when I was 15-18 years old and I could get by with no makeup. I remember every detail about every excursion and they weren't any big deal. It was just something to be looked at, like a female and have a man open a door for you, and things like that. I feel that I am at a crossroads in my life and I would love to have a girlfriend to write to. Chantal.
P.S. I have only now had time to read the articles in your magazine. My god, there are so many thoughts and things that I have had or done. WOW. I can't believe it!

To Illusions Social Club...Hi...my name is Stephanie and I am 27 years old. I have been crossdressing since I was about 15 years old. I bought your magazine last week and am interested in joining your club. I met two of your members at Lingerie by Barbie, and enjoyed talking to both. When I went into the store to buy a wig and a pair of heels, I was a little apprehensive, but within a few minutes I was relaxed and very happy to have met another CDer like myself! I would like some information on your club! Your friend StephanieP.S. I enjoyed reading your magazine!

Dear Illusions... Hi...I am a new member and very scared. I tried to attend a social evening back in June. I drove by and parked aways away. I watched some of the "Gals" going in and couldn't believe how good they all looked. I was over whelmed at some of the transformations. I felt like an ugly duckling and was worried that others might laugh at me....so I went home. I was really depressed when I got home but now I think that I have talked myself into coming out in September sometime. I hope I can take those first steps like you girls did..... signed...."no girl name yet!"

report



◀400 Fifteen hundred years ahead of their time, busty Romans wore leather straps.



◀1592 Elizabeth I, wearing a breastplate that would have stopped a sword



▶1800s The common corset, as sold by Madame Foy of New Haven for \$1.40



▲1907 A tightly laced corset that promoted the Edwardian single-breast look

◀1980s The underwear-as-outerwear trend was promoted by Madonna.

▼1994 The Wonderbra: The biggest thing since implants.

◀1947 The Kabo company made bras with K-factor,

a lightweight fabric that added lift.

TIMELINE:

Bolder Holders

By Jeffrey Slonim

The first bra was a revealing push-up that Minoan ladies strapped in place with metal bands. For centuries the technology didn't improve much. Elizabethan metal corsets looked and felt like armor. In 1889 a French corset manufacturer invented what we know as the bra. Some innovations worked better than others. The inflatable version of the 1950s tended to explode at high altitudes. Today's push-up of choice, the Wonderbra, looks like the number Raquel Welch wore in 1967 in *Be-dazzled*.



◀1930 Sheer fabric bras didn't give a lot of support.

▶1951 Some inflatable bras came with a straw.



◀1964 Amazing lace: Carroll Baker's lingerie looked very Frederick's of Hollywood.



WOMEN (SORT OF) ON THE VERGE

DESPITE being the toast of Cannes, Australia's *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* no longer has **Steven Spielberg** and Universal Pictures in a sweat. Shortly after *Priscilla* wowed them on the Riviera, insiders noted that the movie—about three drag queens crossing the outback—bore an uncanny resemblance to Amblin/Universal's *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*. Starring **Wesley Snipes, Patrick Swayze, and John Leguizamo**, *Wong Foo*, currently shooting in New York City, is also about three drag queens on a cross-country trek.

With *Priscilla* slated to open Aug. 12, Universal decided to meet the threat head-on. The studio asked *Priscilla* di-



DRAG RACE: Snipes, Swayze, and Leguizamo in *Wong Foo*

rector Stephan Elliott for a special screening. Universal's review? A studio source feels that *Priscilla* might take the edge off *Wong Foo*'s originality, but that's it. "They're different movies," he says. Elliott agrees. "[Their] script is very polite. Everyone is nice and chatty, while ours is a musical: tasteless, loud, and brash."

And industry observers believe that if *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Crying Game* are any indication, there's plenty of room for movies that explore sexual identity.

"*Wong Foo* aims at the mainstream," says Interscope producer David Madden (*Three Men and a Baby*). "It won't be perceived as anything more sexually threatening than Flip Wilson playing Geraldine." —Anne Thompson



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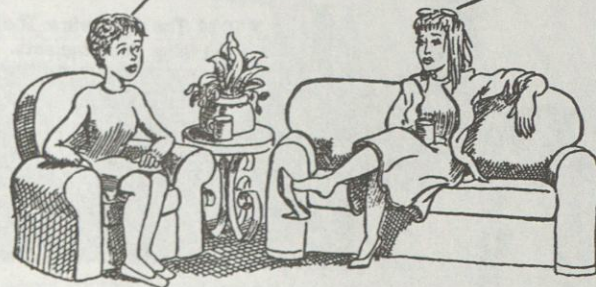


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You know how to
make God laugh?

Yeah, show Her your
plans for your life.



THAT'S NO LADY, THAT'S MY HUBBY

DEVOTED WIFE Karen Steen vows she'll stand by her man — even after he becomes a WOMAN!

"I cried for days when my husband, Kelvin, came back from the doctor's office and told me he was going to have a sex change," says the 26-year-old mom.

"I thought long and hard about leaving him, but then I realized I just couldn't. Our love is too deep for us to separate now."

"We're still sleeping in the same bed, and that's how it's going to be for the rest of our lives."

"I love Kelvin and I don't want to lose him, so I'm willing to accept his new way of life."

The London, England, couple has explained Kelvin's planned sex change to their 8-year-old daughter, Tracey. "She's already calling him Daddy Clare," says carefree Karen.

Factory worker Kelvin's secret longing came to light when Karen discovered pretty undies that he wore when she wasn't around.

"I was a woman trapped in a man's body," says Kelvin.

"I always felt more comfortable when I was wearing skirts and blouses."

"I thought when I married Karen and we had a baby, this longing would disappear. But it didn't, and I couldn't go on living a lie."

Thanks to hormone treatments, the 31-year-old dad now has a 36-inch bust, and he plans to have a full sex-change operation next year.

**Faithful wife
says she'll
stand by her
sex-swap
man**



WIFE Karen and daughter Tracey hug Kelvin (center).

"I'm extremely fortunate to have a loving family that understands my need and is willing to make the necessary adjustments," Kelvin says gratefully.

"We know it's going to be an awkward situation for a while, but we feel our love will carry us through."

For the "New" Readers and those that aren't acquainted with us we're going to ask Barbie about "ILLUSIONS". Questions that I'm sure you've answered a million times before.....So here goes.....

ILLUSIONS.. How did you first get involved with Crossdressers? Was it planned?

BARBIE.... I was working next door at "Lover's Leap" and had various customers that were "Crossdressers". They needed things and we started to source different items for them as well as do custom work for them. No, it wasn't planned.

I.. So you did sewing for these people. Alterations or what?

B.. I create "Custom" clothes for ALL people. To make clothes for men you need some skills in pattern making which I have.

We Had A Cross-dresser's "WINE & CHEESE" Party!

I.. Looking around the "Store" I don't just see plain ordinary clothes - I see clothing with a lot of "Artistic Flair".....So where does your "Creative" background come from?

B.. I have sewn and created clothes for as long as I can remember. I used to take extra sewing courses when I was a teenager - so by the time I hit Grade 12 sewing - I could do lots more than the boring "apron" project! I wanted to do an elaborate designer "Vogue" pattern. I did however go to the "Alberta College of Art" at S.A.I.T. Little of that had anything to do with sewing - more of the fine arts, painting, drawing, form, and I was a photography major.

I.. (Back on Track) How did "Illusions" evolve from your making clothes for crossdressers?

B.. I had a "Wine and Cheese" party for my customers - several cross-dressers came out that evening. The next day four of us were tossing around the idea of another get together. We thought we should name it and develop a letterhead - so we could send out invites to cross-dressers that might be interested.

I.. How come the name - "ILLUSIONS".

B.. It seemed to fit the bill the best as I didn't want anything that sounded too sexual or anything that had Trans.... anything in it.

I.. So you developed a name and letterhead - but how did you and how do you reach your potential members?

B.. In the first two years it was mostly through our customer base - I think just the slogan "Custom Clothes" flushed out men who wanted female clothing plus we started to make contact with other "Love Shops" and that directed crossdressing traffic our way. Now we have really opened up our advertising into all sorts of mediums. That's all taken time and a bit of caution - no exposure in the wrong places!

I.. You've contacted all these people... but obviously you can't hold a meeting in your store - so what do you do?

B.. We did have a space next door that

was good - but it cost money. In time this working space I'm in now came available and we moved over to our current location. We have a store in front with the "Club" space in the back. This growth spurt was fun and exciting - but it came with problems as well!

I.. You beat me to the punch... As I was going to mention - that we aren't sitting in a small corner of "Lover's Leap"..... we're in your store now! So you said problems - just growing pains - or real problems?

B.. Both.... we had some members that didn't want space change. Some figured that it was going to "cost" them (which it never has) - and others felt that maybe I was being not only a store owner but a club owner as well. I'd like to think that however it looks - any and all decisions have been made along the way so that both the business and club members have the best space for both their needs. Some people resist change no matter what - that's just life.

I.. The space "Illusions" uses for their club functions - is it a rental or donation or what?

B.. Rental - No. The business pays rent on the entire square footage and due to the fact that "Illusions" doesn't make any money - Yah - it's a donation from "Lingerie by Barbie" and "B & B Enterprises".

Chit Chat

I.. You must derive some benefits from "Illusions" or why go to all the trouble of operating a successful club?

B.. The benefits would be from seeing customers in the store find what they need and find others like themselves. I still get a real warm feeling when a new member finds us - realizes he's not alone - acts like he's in a "Candy" store - joins and is a part of the club - it's real exciting- so I still believe the benefits are more personal than financial.(I could show you my bank account to prove that!!! HaHa.)

I.. When somebody joins I'm sure it must be very traumatic for them - (It's not the sort of club you'd see three or four friends come in and join together!) How do you overcome this problem and approximately how many people have you helped to join "Illusions"?

B.. It's really traumatic - of probably close to four hundred people I've seen about the club - maybe a dozen have strolled through real confident - I've seen everything from drunk and nervous, nervous and sweating, giggly, etc..... The best thing to do is to pour them a coffee and give them some time to relax. A tour of the place helps and it's a real bonus if there is another crossdresser customer around too. On days when "Christine" is in the shop.... that's even better - they SEE themselves! Usually their second visit is a lot better and much more beneficial for them.

I.. It seems like your plate is pretty full - How do you cope with being a designer, seamstress, business woman, analyst, den mother, editor for "Illusions", and still have any kind of a personal life?

B.. High Metabolism...! Actually it comes and goes in waves - sometimes I feel like I'm juggling too much and then at other times it's a smoother sail. We have hired another seamstress and that helped to lighten my work load a bit. Bryan helps out with the business - thank god - cuz' that's right brain

stuff and I'm definitely left brain - and as groups like the social committee do some of the club organising it takes some of the load off my shoulders.

I.. So "Illusions" isn't a one girl act?

B.. No - "Christine" and I both are the mom and Mrs. mom - but there are lots of faithful gals (members) that share their time whenever - from doing dishes, to vacuuming, decorating, organising events, or even being "Ms. Congeniality" and hostess for the new "Gals".

I.. The club has evolved and I'm sure this magazine has too so give us a short rundown on how!

B.. Way back when.... we did a photocopy newsletter to keep people informed then Marsha (the computer whiz!) formulated a newsletter. A year ago or so - we decided to work on it in Calgary as this is the home base. So here we are... a forty page magazine that the "Lovely Lisa" helps us with - we are constantly challenging ourselves with layout, stories, content, and we're trying to have it appeal to all readers. This magazine eats one week of my life every other month - it's a lot of work - but I'm pretty proud of the outcome.

I'm a WOMAN - Genetic & Your Right..... You can't LOOK like me!

I.. Where do see "Illusions" club and magazine going in the future?

B.. As for "Illusions" - maybe our space will always be okay - as we do see many members come and go.... If it ever came to a point where we needed more space - maybe we'd look at another location. As far as the magazine -- I would love to see it as a "High - Tech" glossy magazine - sold everywhere! A financial success!!!!!!!

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I.. Is there anything you'd like to add before we close?

B.. YES, as a matter of fact there is! I am a WOMAN! - genetic, born this way - and it galls me when someone asks..... I'm not a TV/TS - I'm out of the baby factory like this - I've had letters where people were dismayed at my photos - cuz' they're worried they can't transform themselves like me - well they' re right! Don't judge yourself by others unless you know you are both playing the same game!

Now you know some of the background and origins of the club "Illusions" and a little insight into one of the founding "Mothers". "Illusions" has been in existence for over four years and certainly a major part of the "Transgendered" community in Alberta.

If you enjoyed this article let the Editors know as we could certainly add this type of article to our list of feature articles..... Drop us a line..... or..... Drop by the shop and let us know your thoughts on content for the magazine.

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner...
Dec.17/94. Start warming up your Christmas Spirit.

The M & M Sisters go to 'The Other Place'.

Not long ago, I (Michelle) had to go up to the Red Deer region on business. This trip got delayed for various reasons for several weeks and in fact the Illusions summer Bar-B-Q took place before I got away. While at the Bar-B-Q, I met Dana from Red Deer and she was talking about this night spot they had up there called "The Other Place". So I thought why not combine some business with pleasure and check it out during my trip. A few days before I was ready to go, I phoned Dana to see if we could get together, and guess what? No problem, the trip was on. The same night I got a phone call from Monica (We usually shoot the breeze at least once a week), I mentioned what I was doing on the trip. Well after a bit of time I could tell there was someone else who wanted to go, so I asked Monica if she would like to go up to Red Deer with me, why did I ask, the answer was a very positive yes. We worked out the travel details and on the appointed day...we were off!

After completing my Calgary business we decided to stop at Illusions for a chat and coffee. After hearing that we intended to paint the town of Red Deer pink, Barbie thought maybe we could phone down, as there was a social at Illusions that same evening, we could let everyone know how well we were received.

In Red Deer, I finished my duties and Monica and I went over to Dana's house to get dressed and then on down to The Other Place. When we walked through the door, it would be fair to say that we dropped a few drawers, because other than Dana, we were the first crossdressers to have come in. There were a few ooo's and aaah's but after introductions things settled down and we had a great time in a great place. We played pool, ate great food, drank great beer, met some great people and eventually danced the night away, despite the summer heat, (oh, those wigs).

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privacy considerations.

We were well received at The Other Place, Doug who owns this bar was a terrific host for the entire evening. Both Monica and I felt very comfortable. Doug's philosophy is that everyone is entitled to their own place and should be able to mix together. If you can't handle this concept and cause problems for others you're out the door. Sounds like a good way to handle things to us.

We recommend that if you are passing through Red Deer sometime soon, maybe you should stop and see for yourselves. We had a hell of a good time, thanks Dana and Doug for being really good hosts, we will be sure to stop in the next time we come by! **The M & M Sisters**

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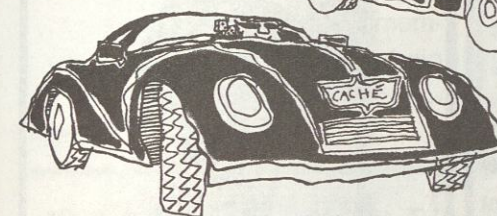
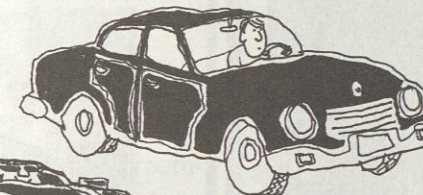
[the world according to he & she]

BY JULIE LOGAN AND ARTHUR HOWARD

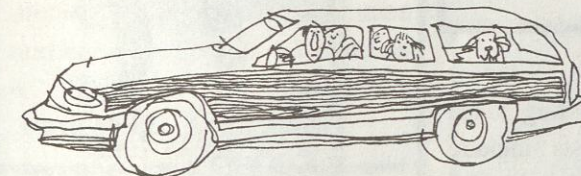
Telltale signs

HE You can tell a lot about him by his car

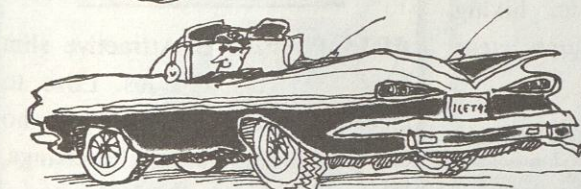
Unassuming regular Joe



More flash than cash

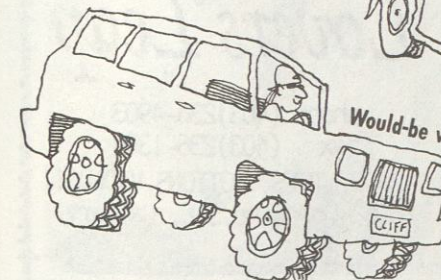
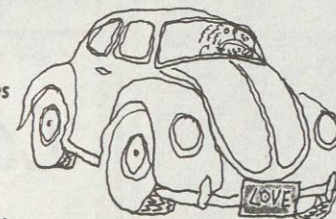


Family man

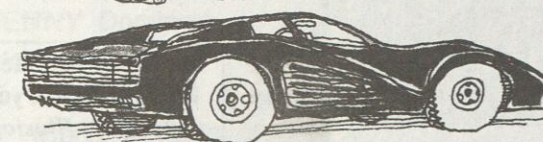


Joy rider

Thinks he's living in the sixties



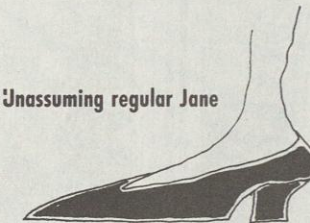
Would-be weekend scaler of great heights



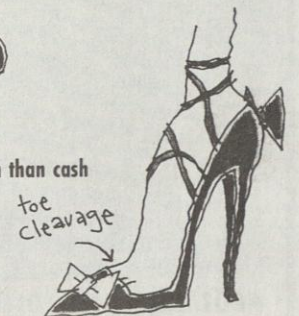
Don't want to grow up, don't want to be a man

SHE You can tell a lot about her by her shoes

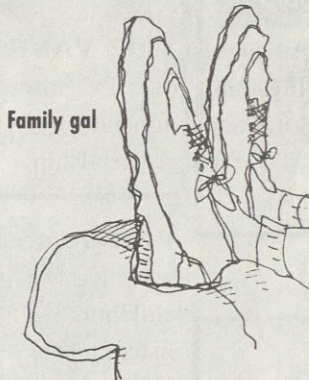
Unassuming regular Jane



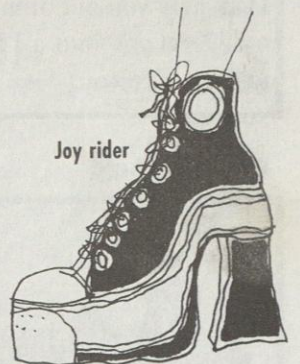
More flash than cash



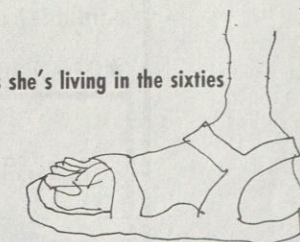
Family gal



Joy rider



Thinks she's living in the sixties



Would-be weekend scaler of great heights



Don't want to grow up, don't want to be a man

The Illusions Game

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#289 Michelle Loves makeup, heels, and would like to learn more about femininity. Interested in friendship with others of similar interests. All correspondence will be answered.

#290 Gloria #291 Lorea

#292 Leslie Recent convert to Cross Dressing. Want to meet same for outings. Goal is to pass on the street, needs to learn the Art of Makeup.

**#293 Collesse #294 Coreen
#295 Jacqui #296 Racquel
#297 Victoria Catherine
#298 Dana #299 Terry
#300 Tammie**

#301 Yvonne Married novice CD, who loves Femme side. 5'9", very slim. Enjoy heels, slim fitting clothes, particularly skirts and suits. Anxious to learn more about make-up, voice, mannerisms.

#302 Melissa #303 Deana

#304 Raquel New girl on the Block looking for friend to help in all aspects of femininity, can you help me? Love sexy outfits and looks.

**#305 Debra #306 Mandy
#307 Mellissa #308 Amanda
#309 Cindy #310 Beverly
#311 Theresa #312 Janet
#313 Betty #314 Catherine
#315 Alanna #316 Charlene**

#317 Rachael Sep. Bi., Cd'ing 26 yrs., Mid 30's. I enjoy going out in public. Wish to meet other TV's for outings and practice.

#318 Bill

#319 Al

'THE ILLUSIONS' CLASSIFIED"

#1001 Mistress Black
Edmonton, Alta. 6'4" Goddess in black leather, 30 yrs. young, TV. Looking for the right subject to serve my whims. Enjoys bondage and discipline. Consideration given to sincere honest responses. Your picture gets fast response. So tell me your fantasies and we'll see what happens.....



Illusions Registry
Ads in the registry are free to members of *Illusions*. Please keep ads to 25 words or less. We're looking for new photos of members. Photos can now be in colour or B/W. The best photo size is 4X6 or 3 1/2X5. No obscene or nude photos will be printed!



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Wigging Out

The bewigged flamboyance of drag queens has never been so in vogue. Hollywood is preparing its own cross-dressing story, *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything*. Julie Newmar, starring Wesley Snipes and Patrick Swayze; and the Australian film *The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* has been widely acclaimed. But downtown New York has long been the queen of the ball when it comes to drag acts, and this year is the 10th birthday of the wildly exuberant **Wigstock**. Hosted by Lady Bunny (left) and featuring, among others, musical divas RuPaul and Debbie Harry, it will be a carnivalesque show of wigs, bustiers, sequins, and glitter. "The end of summer is always a good time to wig out," asserts Lady Bunny. To be held on Labor Day, September 5.



....Guess Who's New At the Club?.....

#317 RACHAEL.....Been CD'ing for 26 yrs. Glad you've decided to join us.

#318 BILL.....Another Gal from Saskatchewan, See you when you hit the "Cow Town".

#315 ALANNA.....Enjoys "Dress-up" but new to the Social Scene.

#316 CHARLENE.....Welcome. You've made the first step "Out", hope to see you soon.

#319 AL.....Starting to learn about the "Lifestyle" and joins us from Phoenix, Arizona.



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